

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DRC-01 /068 W

----- 076281

R 090345Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1864

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMRMNSUL SYDNEY 516

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: BAD DAY FOR TRADE UNION LEADER HAWKE.

1. ALL MEDIA NOVEMBER 9 CARRY DETAILS OF VERBAL SWIPE  
TAKEN BY PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AT AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (ACTU) PRESIDENT, BOB HAWKE.

2. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW LAST WEEK, HAWKE WAS  
QUESTIONED ON CURRENT INFLATION AFFECTING AUSTRALIA'S  
ECONOMY. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAWKE SUGGESTED GOA BE  
ARMED WITH STANDBY POWERS TO INCREASE DIRECT TAXES.  
THIS WAS AMONG PROPOSALS MADE LAST JUNE BY  
DR. H.C. COOMBS, WHITLAM'S ECONOMIC ADVISOR.

3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 8 WHITLAM REJECTED  
IDEA THAT HE NEEDSTO BE RESPONSIVE TO SUGGESTIONS  
FROM HAWKE OR COOMBS, AND WENT FURTHER TO SPECULATE  
THAT HAWKE'S OPINIONS WERE ONLY HIS OWN AND DID NOT  
REFLECT EITHER LABOR PARTY OR TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP  
ATTITUDES.

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4. REACHED BY TELEPHONE IN JAKARTA, ON HIS WAY TO ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING, HAWKE IS QUOTED IN MELBOURNE "AGE" NOVEMBER 9 AS SAYING, "IF HE WANTS TO SAY THIS, IT'S UP TO HIM". HAWKE REFUSED TO ENGAGE WHITLAM IN CONTROVERSY.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS SECOND PUBLIC BRAWL WHITLAM HAS TRIED TO START WITH HAWKE. FIRST HE HAD HARSH THINGS TO SAY WHEN THE ACTU DECIDED NOT TO SUPPORT HIS ATTEMPT TO GET WAGE CONTROL BY REFERENDUM. BUT LABATT SPECULATES THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN RUNS DEEPER THAN TWO PUBLIC ISSUES INDICATE. HAWKE SPEARHEADED DRIVE INSIDE PARTY TO GET WHITLAM TO GIVE UP FOREIGN MINISTRY AND TO STAY HOME; WHICH PM HAS RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO DO. CERTAINLY HAWKE'S QUALIFICATION AS ECONOMIST, ENOUGH TO EARN

WHITLAM'S PRAISE WHEN HE APPOINTED HAWKE AS MEMBER OF FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD ONLY FEW WEEKS AGO, ENTITLES HIM TO MILD PERSONAL OPINION ON TAXATION. INCIDENT UNDERLINES WHITLAM'S NEED TO DEMONSTRATE HIS PERSONAL STRENGTH AND INDEPENDENCE. ALSO IT SHOWS HIS BELIEF THAT HAWKE IS WEAK POLITICALLY. INDEED HAWKE HAS NOT MUCH ROOM TO MANEUVER. HE IS HEAD OF PARTY, ONLY BECAUSE HE HEADS THE ACTU. AND HE HEADS ACTU ONLY BY SHEER FORCE OF HIS CONSIDERABLE PERSONALITY. TRADE UNION COALITION WHICH BROUGHT HIM TO POWER HAS LONG SINCE DISSOLVED; HE IS NOW REJECTED BY ULTRA-LEFT AND HE HAS ONLY SLIGHTLY WIDENED TO LIGHT HIS CENTERIST SUPPORT. THIS UPSIDE DOWN PYRAMID, WITH APEX ON HIS SHOULDERS ALONE, MAKES HIM VULNERABLE TO ATTACKS SUCH AS WHITLAM'S.

HAWKE MIGHT BE WELL ADVISED TO STAY AT HOME HIMSELF.  
FLUKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1973  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** MELBOURNE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** BAD DAY FOR TRADE UNION LEADER HAWKE.  
**TAGS:** ELAB, AS, ACTU, (WHITLAM), (HAWKE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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